

Reader's Digest
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Crisis on Campus

To give in to the radical students' unreasonable demands, warns a noted educator, is "educational genocide"

*Condensed from U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
An interview with PROFESSOR SIDNEY HOOK*

Q. Dr. Hook, have campus disorders brought universities to a turning point in their history?

A. Yes. Recent events on our campuses have precipitated a genuine crisis. American higher education is confronted with the most fundamental challenge in history to its basic principle. I mean the principle of academic freedom.

Q. Just how do you define academic freedom?

A. It is the freedom of professionally qualified individuals to inquire, to discover, to publish and teach the truth as they see it, independently of any controls except the standards by which conclusions or truths are established in their discipline. Therefore, once a teacher is certified by his peers as professionally competent, the principle of academic

freedom requires that there be no interference with his right to reach and teach any conclusions in the field in which he is an expert.

Giving in to the demands of students to determine not only the nature of the curriculum but who is to teach them, who is to be hired and fired, implies an abandonment of that principle. Yet in the spring of 1968 at Cornell, black students demanded an apology from, and the dismissal of, a visiting lecturer because he expressed conclusions about Africa of which they disapproved. At UCLA a course in race was canceled at the demand of black students. The Students for a Democratic Society have demanded that students have equal rights with the faculty in determining what should be taught and who is to teach it. And now in an epoch-making de-

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